(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to resolve the said problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per survey conducted in 1991, the number of quality affected habitations due to excess fluoride, excess salinity, excess iron, excess arsenic, excess nitrate and multiple water quality problems was 2,16,794. As per fresh water quality survey ordered in March 2000, State Governments reported 2,16,968 rural habitations with drinking water quality problems. Out of these, 31,306 habitations are affected with excess fluoride, 23,495 with excess salinity, 1,18,088 with excess iron, 5,029 with excess arsenic, 13,958 with excess nitrate and 25,092 habitations having multiple water quality problems.

(c) Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States to accelerate coverage of rural habitations through a centrally sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Helping State Governments in tackling water-quality problems in the rural areas is one of the objectives of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), Department of Drinking Water Supply. Sub-mission programmes were introduced in 1992-93 to tackle water quality and sustainability problems. Till 31/3/1998,120 projects at an outlay of Rs. 1342 crore under sub-mission programme were sanctioned to tackle wates quality problems on the funding pattern of 75:25 between Centre and State. These were implemented by the State Governments. With effect from 1-4-1998, however, the power to sanction projects under Sub-mission programme was delegated to the State Governments. There is no change in funding pattern of 75:25 between Centre and State for tackling water quality problems. 15% of ARWSP funds released to States are earmarked for tackling water quality problems. Fully covered States can spend higher proportion of funds on projects for tackling water-quality problems, with prior approval of the Central Government.

Affect of Multi fibre agreement under WTO regime

289. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Multi Fibre Agreement under the World Trade

Organisation (WTO) regime, had come to an end on January 1, 2005; and

(b) if so, how India, China and others concerned stand to gain or lose thereby?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) As per WTO Agreement on Textiles & Clothing (ATC), the textile quota regime has been phased out and textile sector fully integrated into WTO on 1st January 2005.

India's textiles and clothing exports in the post regime will be driven by value added made-ups & apparels as India has comparative advantages over its competitors in relation to (i) availability of relatively inexpensive and skilled workforce (ii) design expertise (iii) large production base of basic raw materials.

Ban Imposed by USA

290. SHRI RK MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has imposed a ban on import of suit, under garments and a number of other garments from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact on Export of Indian garments as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Investment in Textiles sector

291. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile sector needs a huge capital investment of Rs. 27,000 crores, within the next 2 years, to compete with other countries, with the phasing out of the quota regime this year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to meet the target?